

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 /059 W

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R 171139Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5741

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26318

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM SONGKHLA 15 DEC 75
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: MUSLIM ANGER GROWS AFTER PATTANI GRENADE KILLS DEMONSTRATORS

1. GRENADE THROWN DECEMBER 13 INTO MUSLIMS DEMONSTRATING
AGAINST TORTURE AND MURDERS OF 5 VILLAGERS BY THAI TROOPS
(SONGKHLA 217) EXACERBATES
COMMUNAL STRIFE CONSIDERABLY DOWN
HERE. AT LEAST 7 DEAD AND 25 WOUNDED, AND SEVERAL WOUNDED
EXPECTED TO DIE.

2. MUSLIMS BELIEVE GRENADE THROWN BY POLICE OR THAI RIGHTISTS.
STORIES OF OTHER ATROCITIES, REAL OR IMAGINED, WHIPPED UP
CROWD INTO MANY ANTI-RTG SPEECHES EVEN BEFORE EXPLOSION.
GRENADE DEATHS INCREASED RUMORS AND HATRED. DEMONSTRATORS
HAVE NOW MOVED TO PATTANI CENTRAL MOSQUE WHERE SEVERAL
THOUSAND STILL STANDING IN HEAVY RAIN AS OF SUNDAY NIGHT.
MUSLIM VILLAGERS COMING INTO PATTANI TOWN NOW OUTNUMBERING
STUDENTS AND URBAN CROWD AT MOSQUE.

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3. RELIGION IS NOW FOCAL POINT IN DISTURBANCE. WEEKEND

WAS MUSLIM HOLIDAY (FEAST OF PILGRIMAGE), AND VICTIMS ARE
BEING CELEBRATED AS HEROES KILLED IN HOLY WAR. BODIES WERE

BURIED IMMEDIATELY AS WAR DEAD RATHER THAN WITH ORDINARY
MUSLIM RITES. SPEAKERS CLAIMED STRUGGLE WAS NO LONGER ONE
FOR JUSTICE (PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO KILLED 5 MUSLIMS
LAST WEEK), BUT RATHER HAS BECOME FIGHT FOR PRESERVATION OF RELI-
GION. SPEAKERS ALSO HEARD DEMANDING THAT NEWS OF MUSLIM OPPRESSION
BE CIRCULATED IN MALAYSIA AND ARAB COUNTRIES IN ORDER GAIN
OUTSIDE SUPPORT.

4. CONCOMITANT WITH UGLY PATTANI SCENE IS ONGOING TRIAL
IN NEIGHBORING YALA WHERE 10 MUSLIMS WITH DUAL THAI/MALAYSIAN
NATIONALITY NOW BEING CHARGED WITH ATTEMPT ORGANIZE RELIGIOUS
WAR AGAINST RTG (SONGKHLA 120). THIS GROUP WAS AT STAGE OF
POURING HOLY WATER ON BODIES AS PROTECTION AGAINST BULLETS.

COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN VENAL THAI DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAVE
DEMONSTRATED KNACK OF MAKING BAD SITUATION WORSE (SONGKHLA A-10
AUGUST 1975). SOURCE HERE CLAIMS LAST WEEK'S TORTURE AND
KILLINGS WERE ACTUALLY WORK OF THAI MARINES WHO NEW TO AREA.
MUSLIMS WERE REPORTEDLY SUSPECTED BANDITS OR ACCOMPLICES,
AND QUIET MURDER IS NORMAL JUSTICE METED OUT TO SMALL FRY
GANGSTERS HERE IN WILD WEST. ENJOYMENT IN KILLINGS AND
FURTHER COVERUP INCENSED MUSLIMS WHO FAMILIAR WITH PAST
EPISODES.

WHILE RTG SHOULD BE ABLE HANDLE IMMEDIATE SITUATION WITH
TROOPS IN AREA, IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME SORT
OF JUSTICE FOR PERPETRATORS OF ATROCITIES IF IT IS NOT TO
ALIENATE BULK
OF MUSLIM POPULATION. REAL WORRY HERE IS CALL
FOR OUTSIDE SUPPORT. IF MASSIVE AID COMES IN A LA SOUTHERN
PHILIPPINES, RTG WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO COME UP WITH ENOUGH TROOPS,
LET ALONE DESIRE, TO HANDLE COMMUNAL STRIFE IN THREE SOUTHEASTERN

PROVINCES WITH 80-90 PERCENT MUSLIM POPULATION. CASTRODALE

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WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ATROCITIES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO26318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750438-0800
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcbst.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUSLIM ANGER GROWS AFTER PATTANI GRENADE KILLS DEMONSTRATORS
TAGS: PINS, TH
To: STATE KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006